

RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 2, 2021
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: District Manager
SUBJECT: Review and Provide Direction Regarding Pickleball and Tennis Court Usage and Facilities in Simi Valley - **Supplemental Information**

For your review, attached please find correspondence that was received subsequent to the posting of the December 2, 2021 Board Meeting agenda and staff report related to the subject item.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DAN PARANICK", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Paranick
District Manager

Sandee Covone

From: Lorie Roseff
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 8:57 AM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: We need more PB Courts in Simi

Dear Board Members, I am new to playing Pickleball this past year. I'm 63 years old and thrilled I found a sport where I can get exercise, enjoy the outdoors, not get injured, meet other active people in my age group, and it's very affordable! I just did my first round-robin and loved it. We definitely need more courts to play, as we often arrive at the local courts to see that they are crowded. I know many more people are starting to play and the situation is just going to get worse if more courts aren't added.

Thank you, Lorie Roseff

Sandee Covone

From: Sharon Pacheco
Sent: Sunday, November 28, 2021 5:17 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Pickleball courts

We're in desperate need of more courts . The courts r full most hours of the day. And with parks and rec putting out more classes for a sport we r already packed, give us more courts. We can't support the players we have now.
Sharon Pacheco

Sandee Covone

From: Christina Hankey
Sent: Sunday, November 28, 2021 12:35 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Pickleball

Dear Sandee Covone,

I recently started playing pickleball about 3 months ago and it's an amazing sport. I was able to take a beginner's class through the Parks and Rec and have enjoyed meeting people and being able to get some exercise. One of the main issues is being able to find a court to play on. I'm still new and learning, and with the limited courts available it makes practicing extremely difficult. There's a long wait and a vast skill level on a small number of open courts. The evening is the best time for me to be able to play and everytime I try to play, all the courts have a long wait.

Thank you for your time,
Christina Hankey

Sandee Covone

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 9:12 AM
To: comments
Subject: Comments/Suggestions

Name = William Mason Clark

City = Simi Valley

Email =

Comments = I understand that you are considering adding more Pickle Ball Courts which are needed as the sport has grown exponentially over the last several years. We who play at the Lemmon Park courts (A great name for us users of our misnamed courts) believe the 4 transitional courts should be permanently converted to Pickle Ball courts.

Some are suggesting the Duck Park for expansion (another better name for these heavily used courts) which is more expensive I believe.

Hope we can agree on the present need for courts,

Sincerely,

William Clark

Client IP = 108.244.57.38

Sandee Covone

From:
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Pickleball courts expansion

Dear Ma'am,

My husband and I are fairly new to Pickleball. We have been playing for about 6 months or more. There are many times that we make the trek from Northridge to Simi Valley to play and practice only to find the courts filled either with lessons or recreation players. After waiting for a while we give up and trek back home. There is nothing much in the Northridge area. This sport has taken off especially with seniors as it is wonderful exercise without too much running. For many of us, knee problems keep us from tennis but in Pickleball there is not as much running. This sport keeps us active and most of all IT'S FUN!!!!!!!!!! Lemon Park shares the court with tennis and the blue lines are sometimes confusing not to mention those courts are also filled. So you say - why not just enroll in a class - oh that's very good idea but they are always full and then one is put on the "wait list". So the bottom line is WE NEED MORE COURTS!!!!!! Please consider this when discussing the problem and vote in the affirmative.

Thank you

Terry and Andrew Weiner

Sandee Covone

From: Leo Shtifman ·
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Cc: Gary Gossett
Subject: Pickleball's Life Matter!

Hi Sandy! Pickleball plays extremely important part in people's lives who comes after work (like myself) and want to be healthy and happy. Unfortunately it gets frustrating when you come on court full of eagerness to play and see the crowd of people like myself who waits for the turn to play. And in the same time there are 2 tennis courts are empty. Please help us to make it happen to have tennis courts at least convertible to pickleball, so we can collaboratively manage and prioritize games of 2 close relatives- tennis and pickleball. It would be really great journey into the sport world for the wider community! Thank you,
Leo Shtifman, PB player.

Sandee Covone

From: noreply=revize.com@turbo-smtp.info on behalf of noreply@revize.com
Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 6:36 PM
To: comments
Subject: Comments/Suggestions
Attachments: 919B4894-4DFB-4EF1-9375-FBCEFFCF61B6.jpeg

Recreation (events, classes, programs, rentals...) = true

Name = Goutham

City = Simi Valley

Email =

Comments = I am writing in response to the waiting time to play pickle bale

Ball in the Duck park at Simi Valley . Extremely

Frustrated to wait 10-15 mins to play a game after a long

Day of work.

Client IP = 172.56.31.91

Sandee Covone

From:
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Sandee Covone
Cc:
Subject: Sinaloa Pickleball Court Proposal

Hello Sandee,

I am writing in support of the conversion of 2 tennis courts at Duck Pond into 6 additional Pickleball Courts. I have been an avid player for 6 years and I moved to Simi Valley 4 years ago, and the people as well as my participation in pickleball had a real impact on my decision to move here.

I am a national level player and have medalled in the US National Pickleball championships. I am also a tournament director and started the current Santa Barbara American Riviera tournament as well as the Simi Valley Town Crown tournament, which I have run for two years prior to COVID.

With the participation growing consistently over my last 4 years in Simi Valley, I can honestly say that the growth and increase in participation is creating some heated arguments based on the lack of courts. We have seen this problem grow here in Simi Valley every year, and it will only get worse because the number of new players is growing exponentially as more residents/players tell their friends about the fun they are having.

This is the time for NEW COURTS. I cannot run effective tournaments at the Sinaloa middle school location because they only allow Saturdays and Sundays for court use. That does not support a tournament that attracts 300+ participants. We need Friday as well and the school will not allow that. Additionally, the school supervisors change over time and we get on and off support depending on their position regarding pickleball support. We cannot plan effectively under those circumstances. Running tournaments brings in hundreds of people from out of town which brings in significant revenue for Simi Valley in hotel stays and restaurant/food sales. With 6 new courts WITH LIGHTS we can run very successful tournaments and not worry about school rules and having to be done before it gets dark.

I love tennis and played many years, however, I do not see the numbers compared to pickleball. We are filling up ALL 12 courts at the middle school on Saturdays with people waiting and weekdays on Tuesday and Thursday at Duck Pond, cannot support those numbers on 6 courts. That is where the arguments are occurring. We have been asking for these courts for 3 years now and in that time the numbers have continued to grow and there is no reason to think that they will not continue to grow for years to come. We need to accommodate the growth now!

Please forward my support to the appropriate party. If you have any questions or require any additional insight from a professional level player and tournament director feel free to reach out.

Tom Fuhrmann

Sandee Covone

From: Lydia Ritzman
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Pickleball courts needed

Hello,

I've been playing Pickleball in Simi Valley for 10+ years. To say I've seen it grow over the years, would be an understatement. I'm fortunate to be retired and can play weekdays in the morning. But I know the popularity of this sport is greatly impacting the existing courts evenings and weekends.

We desperately need more public courts to accommodate more players. It's really as simple as that.

I've lived in Simi since 1982. The Park district has done a great job of meeting the needs of the community. I hope they will do the right thing and consider options for temporary Pickleball courts on existing tennis courts and new courts at Madera Park.

Thanks for your consideration in this important issue.

Regards,

Lydia Ritzman

Sent from my iPhone

Sandee Covone

From: Karen Zook
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Pickleball courts at the Duck Pond Park

Good morning Sandee,

I just learned that there is a proposal to take away two more tennis courts at the Duck Pond Park and convert them to pickleball courts. I have been playing tennis my entire life, and am vehemently opposed to this proposal. Due to my demanding schedule, my only form of recreation is tennis, and I look forward to it every week. As it is, we do not have enough tennis courts at the local parks, and the pickleball players have access to rolling nets, should they want to play.

Often times I go to the park to play tennis after work, and have to wait upwards of one hour just to get onto a court. This is really unfair to the tennis community, and we should have the same access as pickleball players. We have already lost courts at Lemon Park as well as the Duck Pond Park, so I urge you to please leave the few existing public tennis courts as is, and do not make them unavailable for the tennis community of Simi Valley. If we lose these additional courts, I fear we will have to travel outside of the city just to enjoy a game of tennis with friends; should this happen, I will have to give up playing the game I've enjoyed my entire life.

Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Karen Zook

Sandee Covone

From: Hai Shim
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: plan to convert tennis courts to pickle ball courts

Presently we already have hardtime getting a court for tennis.
If some tennis courts are converted to use for pickle balls we will have harder times to get a court for tennis.
Please stop the plan to convert the tennis courts to pickle balls.
I believe there are more people playing tennis than pickle balls.

Sent from my Galaxy

Sandee Covone

From: Ryan Loftis
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 5:46 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Rancho Simi Community Park Pickleball Courts

Hello Board of Directors,

I am reaching out to you regarding pickleball play at Rancho Simi Community Park (Duck Pond). I'm an avid pickleball player and started playing in July 2020 through a class provided by Parks and Rec. I absolutely love the ability to get out and play several evenings a week. The pickleball community has been amazing and in short time become very close friends of mine. As you know the sport continues to boom, especially here in Simi and surrounding areas. We are in desperate need of more pickleball courts. The 6 courts at Duck Pond park are constantly full (every night!) and yet the tennis courts directly adjacent to them are rarely in use. I would love to see the courts expanded into that area giving us much more needed playing areas. Duck park is a great facility and the best place in Simi to play after dark as the lighting at "Lemon" Park is awful. I hope you will consider converting these rarely used tennis courts into more pickleball courts.

Thank you,
Ryan Loftis

Sandee Covone

From: Cindy Gonek
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:39 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: More Pickleball Courts

November 30, 2021

To: The Board of Directors

From: Cindy Gonek

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been playing pickleball in Simi Valley for over a year now. Recently, the wait time for the courts has increased, and often, it can be up to a 25-minute wait. Often, I end up just leaving because of the long wait period.

It would be beneficial to all the old and new pickleball players to have more courts available.

Thank you for listening and taking this matter under consideration to add more courts.

Sincerely,

Cindy Gonek

Cindy Gonek

Sandee Covone

From: Deanie Kepner
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:49 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Simi Valley Pickle Ball

To Whom it May Concern;

I am a frequent pickle ball player at the Simi Valley parks and would like to point out that there are not nearly enough pickle ball courts to handle all the players as of recently. I have noticed in the past several months that the wait time becomes longer and longer. It would be very beneficial to all players if we had more courts in order to cut down the wait time.

Thank you for your time.

Deanie Kepner

Sandee Covone

From: Gary Gossett ·
Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:59 PM
To: Sandee Covone <sandee@rsrpd.us>
Subject: Additional Pickleball Courts

Hello Simi Board Members,

My name.. Gary Gossett. I'm a long time resident of Simi Vally an avid pickleball player, certified coach and an Ambassador for USA Pickleball representing Simi Valley. I've been teaching pickleball for over five years and have watched this crazy game grow from a recreational pass time to an obsession of the masses. Pickleball is definitely here to stay and, so it brings me to fill you folks in on what's been happening within our community over the past several years.

Your own records will show that every seven to eight weeks or so about 24 new players are inducted into Simi Valley's ever growing pickleball community via lessons sponsored by RSRPD. On the conservative side that's around 175 new players each year added to the over 500-600 plus players that play in Simi on a regular basis. While this interest and excitement for the game is exploding it's quite obvious that Simi doesn't have enough courts to accommodate all the players. We are MAXED OUT!

So, what's the solution? The solution in the short term would be to convert 2 more tennis courts (next to the existing pickleball courts at Duck Pond) into 6 additional courts. This will open up many avenues for additional RSRPD revenues and would better service the community with 12 dedicated and lighted pickleball courts at Duck Pond Park. A discussion to build a 12-16 court pickleball facility at Wood Ranch could be brought up at a later date.

Sincerely,
Gary Gossett



24 pickleball players at RSCP



Same evening. 1 tennis player.

Gary Gossett
USA Pickleball Ambassador
Team Selkirk-Advocate
PPR Certified Coach
Simi Valley, CA

Stay Active, Have Fun & Be Well With Pickleball



Sandee Covone

From: Jongsun choi
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: converting tennis court to pickball court

Hi Sandee,

I am writing this letter to appeal about converting tennis court for pickball court in Rancho Simi Park. This park's tennis court is very popular for tennis players since light system is brighter than any other park's court and very clean all the time. So we are enjoying tennis all the time under good conditions. We appreciate your people for keeping like this for our community.

Unfortunately recently I have heard about that some of tennis courts might be converted for pickleball since there are many demands from pickleball players. But I don't think number of tennis ball players are reduced. I understand that more peoples want to enjoy pickleballs. But number of tennis players are also growing. We need to consider to build another pickball courts at other spot instead of converting from tennis courts. That's because at peak time of from 5 to 8 pm, many peoples are waiting to get tennis courts. It will be very frustrated if number of tennis courts is going down at current situation. Sometimes we fight with people who is playing soccer ball or practicing tennis by himself when tennis courts are full. This means still number of tennis courts are not enough for tennis players. Please consider this situation and please do not reduce number of tennis courts from current.

Thank you.
James Choi

Sandee Covone

From: vicki israel
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Sandee Covone
Subject: Pickleball Courts

To The Parks Board:

I am requesting consideration of making 2 additional permanent pickleball courts on the 2 tennis courts at Duck Park. I am also requesting your consideration of creating 2 permanent pickleball courts from the 6 tennis courts at Rancho Madera Community Park. The tennis courts at Rancho Madera Park are under utilized and the growth of the pickleball sport out weighs the tennis players .

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Vicki Israel
Simi Valley Resident
(21 years)

Sent from my iPad